IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with strikethrough. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing delivery goods when directly delivering goods from a deliverer to a location associated with a recipient comprising:

receiving, at a delivery goods management apparatus, information for a request to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the information request includes a message requesting the recipient to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting recipient information from a storage unit which of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the storage unit stores the recipient information corresponding to the information for related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods reception confirmation requests; and

notifying transmitting a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of confirmation request information based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, said method further comprising:

further storing information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

extracting the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage unit; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of managing delivery goods according to claim 1, further comprising:

further storing information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage unit, and extracting the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage unit; and

notifying said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A delivery goods management apparatus for managing delivery of goods from a deliverer to a location associated with a recipient comprising:

a storage unit which stores recipient information corresponding to information ~~for~~ related to a request to confirm reception of delivery goods, which includes a message ~~requesting the recipient~~ to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location, and also stores information ~~for~~ related to a deliverer corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage unit;

a unit which receives information for the confirmation request entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods is absent from the location, and also receives the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

a unit which extracts, from said storage unit, the information entered by said recipient ~~from said storage unit~~ and also extracts, from said storage unit, the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information ~~from said storage unit~~; and

a unit which ~~notifies~~ transmits a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of the confirmation request information based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, and also notifies said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium which stores a program for making a computer:

receive, at a delivery goods management apparatus, ~~information for~~ a request to confirm reception of delivery goods at a location associated with a recipient entered by a deliverer when the recipient of the delivery goods is absent from the location, wherein the ~~information~~ request includes a message ~~requesting the recipient~~ to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extract recipient information ~~and recipient information~~ corresponding to ~~the~~ information ~~for~~ related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods ~~reception confirmation request~~; and

~~notify~~ transmit a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of the confirmation request information based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, said computer readable storage medium further making the computer:

further store information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit and receive the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

extract the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage unit; and

notify said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

10-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium which stores a program according to claim 9, further making the computer:

further store information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage unit, and extract the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage unit; and

notify said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

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13. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for managing the direct delivery of an item to a location associated with a receiver comprising:

receiving, at a delivery goods management apparatus, ~~information for~~ a request to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the ~~information~~ request includes a message ~~requesting the recipient~~ to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting recipient information from a storage unit ~~which~~ of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the storage unit stores the recipient information corresponding to ~~the~~ information ~~for~~ related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods ~~reception confirmation requests~~; and

further storing information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a data processing system, comprising:

receiving, at a delivery goods management apparatus, ~~information for~~ a request to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the ~~information~~ request includes a message ~~requesting the recipient~~ to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting recipient information from a storage unit ~~which~~ of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the storage unit stores the recipient information corresponding to ~~the~~ information ~~for~~ related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods ~~reception confirmation requests~~; and

further storing information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

15. (Previously Presented) The delivery goods management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said storage units further stores information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information, said unit which extracts the information entered by said recipient, further extracts the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage unit; and said unit which notifies said recipient of the confirmation request information further notifies said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

16. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving, at an apparatus, when a recipient is unavailable at a delivery location, a request from a deliverer as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of goods to be delivered by the deliverer;

transmitting, from the apparatus, a notification to the recipient after receiving the request from the deliverer;

receiving, at the apparatus, a response from the recipient indicating an approval or refusal of the delivery of the goods; and

transmitting, from the apparatus to the deliverer, a notification of the response received from the recipient so that the goods are delivered by the deliverer based on a result of the response.